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Maricopa County Animal Care and Control



Trailin' Tails Newsletter

Reserve Officer Volunteers — Citizens Serving Citizens



One of the MCACC dogs who needed a home. She got her forever home!

Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) is becoming well known for its comprehensive approach to reducing animal code violations. In 2011, MCACC formally established a community program called "Maricopa County Animal Control Reserve Officer".



recruit, train and deploy citizen volunteers to perform routine, non-hazardous enforcement functions; thereby allowing officers to concentrate on those duties that only highly trained personnel can perform. Citizens who are selected to volunteer must be of good

health, undergo a background investigation, complete an initial training program of at least 100 hours and then must perform duties and complete all training assignments while in the program.

A wide range of prevention and enforcement programs are planned with the use of this all volunteer force of officers ranging from disaster evacuation drills, dog pick up and rescues, dog license violation checks, city park patrols, neighborhood dog watch support, emergency management drills, kennel inspections, special community safety events, patrol duties and inter-agency neighborhood clean ups.

The first group of reserve officers has completed training and will be on patrol in a neighborhood near you.

Inside this issue:

Veterinarian's Corner	2
Bubba's New Home	3
Lucky Finds His Forever Home	4
Why I Volunteer	5
Free Ride Home Program	6
Spay Neuter to Stop Overpopulation	7

These projects, which are designed to help make our communities a safer and more humane place to live, could not be possible if we did not recognize the need for trained volunteers. They are another resource for increasing our commitment to the citizens and animals of Maricopa County as a model community for animal welfare.

The goal of the reserve officer program is to





One of the many dogs that have come through our doors needing a new home—he got one!

Dangerous Foods for your pet

Mushrooms

Chocolate

Macadamia Nuts

Grapes

Raisins

Onions

Garlic

Avocados

Candy

Fatty Foods

Salt

Coffee (any caffeine)

Alcohol

Veterinarian's Corner : Heartworm Disease

In this issue, Dr. Durgin discusses Heartworm Disease.

What Is Heartworm Disease? It is a serious and potentially fatal condition caused by parasitic worms living in the arteries of the lungs and occasionally in the right side of the heart of dogs, cats and other mammals. Dogs and cats of any age or breed are susceptible to infection.

How is it spread? Mosquitoes become infected with an immature heartworm known as microfilaria when taking a blood meal from an infected animal. The microfilariae mature into larvae in the mosquito. When the mosquito bites another animal, the larvae are deposited on the skin and they quickly migrate into the new host. The larvae migrate under the skin and eventually enter the venous blood and are transported to the arteries of the lungs. In six months they mature into adult heartworms which produce microfilaria. The microfilariae move into the capillaries, where they are picked up by mosquitoes.

What are the symptoms of heartworm disease? Symptoms vary greatly. Dogs are more susceptible to heartworm than cats and usually develop more severe disease. It may take several years for a dog to become symptomatic. Usually, the signs which develop in dogs are related to dysfunction of the heart, lungs, liver and kidneys and can range from no signs to coughing, exercise intolerance, difficulty breathing, abnormal lung sounds, a heart murmur, enlargement of the liver, accumulation of fluid in the abdomen (ascites), fainting episodes (syncope) and eventually death.

In cats, the larvae often never mature into adults but they can still cause inflammation. The signs are often more generic and can mimic other cat diseases and vary from intermittent vomiting, lack of appetite, lethargy and/or weight-loss to coughing or asthma-like signs.

How is it diagnosed? Diagnosis in dogs is via a blood test that looks for antigens found on adult female heartworms. A test to look for microfilaria in the blood can also be done. Other tests may be done to assess the severity of the disease in symptomatic dogs.

Diagnosis in cats is more difficult since a negative blood test does not rule out infection and often other tests are needed.

How is it treated? In dogs, heartworm is treated with a combination of medication to kill adult worms (adulticides) and medication to kill microfilaria. There is a risk of thromboembolism (clots which obstruct blood flow) developing in the arteries and capillaries of the lungs as the adult worms die which can make the dog very ill and in rare instances cause death. Dogs undergoing treatment for heartworm must be kept very quiet with extremely limited exercise. Fortunately, most of the time treatment is very successful.

In cats there are no approved adulticides. Treatment may involve the use of prednisone or other medications to treat the signs or even the physical removal of the worms surgically.

How is it prevented? There are preventative medications that are used once a month to kill the microfilaria but do not kill adults. Some examples are Ivermectin (Heartgard® by Merial, Iverhart® by Virbac); Milbemycin (Interceptor® & Sentinel® by Novartis); Selamectin (Revolution® by Pfizer); or Moxidectin (Advantage Multi® by Bayer). Dogs and cats less than 6 months of age can be started on preventatives without any testing. Those over 6 months should have a negative heartworm test before starting preventatives.

For more information, go to the American Heartworm Society's website: www.heartwormsociety.org.

Bubba's New Home

We love to hear stories from our adopters. Following is a wonderful story: "I am an Army Soldier who came through a few weeks ago and broke up a scuffle between two dogs (one of which I adopted). Here is Bubba's happy ending..."



Bubba and Pepper holding paws

I found Bubba as a stray and initially turned him over to the county due to not having a long term plan for him. After hearing he did not pass his evaluation to make him adoptable, I worked a plan out with my wife to move him to Texas and stay with her in our home. The day he was neutered and I was to pick him up I received word that he was heartworm positive. I was told that I could unadopt if I wanted... I

opted to not do this and brought him home. We are currently waiting for Immiticide to come back out so we can cure him fully and until then we are working a treatment / maintenance plan with our vet using a heartworm preventative.

Bubba is the perfect dog - we had him trained where to go to the bathroom in under 24 hours. He gets along great with my other dog, Pepper, who lives here in Phoenix. He never chews or causes other levels of mayhem in the house. I have decided to talk to my landlord and try to keep him here with me while I am stationed in Phoenix. If that doesn't work out, he will still have a furever home with my wife and I... just in Texas.

Adopted Cat Says Thanks

I just wanted to thank everyone on the staff for helping me to find my forever home where I am adored constantly, feed wonderfully tasty kitty food, have lots of toys and treats, and even have a new buddy—we love to play and snuggle!

I am allowing my adoring human to send you a photo of me and my new "sister" to you so that you can see how happy I am, and how well I am doing. Please feel free to share this with the rest of the human population so that they will come down and take some of my friends to a new forever home.

Thank you very much!
Love, Brewer



Brewer (right) and her new sister



One of the many cats MCACC has taken in needing a forever home.

Spay and neuter your pets

Get your dogs and cats spayed or neutered! MCACC takes in over 46,000 animals a year, many of them unwanted kittens and puppies. These innocent animals have little chance of survival in our shelters—they need too much care. Please help us stop unnecessary euthanasia—spay and neuter your pets!

Please visit us on the web at: www.pets.maricopa.gov for more information.



Visit our Pet Adoption Centers:

PetSmart Adoption Center

4380 N. Miller Road, Scottsdale

Under One Woof

9617 N. Metro Pkwy #1116,
Phoenix



MCACC took in over 46,000 dogs and cats last year. Please give one a good home!



Check out our videos on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/MaricopaAnimalCare>

Rabies Clinic

Specials: \$20

West and East Shelter:

Sunday 11am — 5:30 pm

West Shelter:

Tues & Thur 9 am — 11am

East Shelter:

Tues & Wed 9 am—11 am

Lucky Found His Forever Home

Lucky came to MCACC with a severe scalp laceration. Our veterinary staff took one look at him and knew they had some work ahead of them. They clipped and cleaned up his head. Many sutures were put in as was a drain for fluids. Lucky received antibiotics and pain medicine. An E-collar was placed around his neck so he wouldn't scratch at his wounds while they healed. Through all the treatments, Lucky kept a positive outlook and was friendly with everyone.



was finally ready to find his forever home. Everyone was relieved that spending so much time at the shelter hadn't diminished Lucky's attitude. He loves everyone he meets and kept his exuberant personality.

Lucky had an article written about him and he was taken on Channel 12 to help find him a home. It worked!

This great dog now has a home with

a family that can help him burn some of his energy and give him all the love he needs.

A month later, Lucky had healed wonderfully and



Special thanks to everyone who turned out for the 12 K's of Christmas this past December! More than 2,200 runners participated in the 12K, 6K, or 1.5 K fun run. Many more people came to shop for the holidays, listen to the carolers and adopt 70 animals.

The event celebrated its third year and has continued to grow. The 12 K's of Christmas also raises money for Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) and Phoenix Animal Care Coalition. This year, they gave \$5,000 to each group. The money will go to MCACC's Spay Neuter Assistance Program to help lower the pet overpopulation program.

KEEP MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET WHILE HELPING HOMELESS ANIMALS

Daily Deal USA

We are partnering with **Daily Deal USA** to offer a FANTASTIC new fundraiser!

If you sign up for their free program, using our referral code, you'll get daily email offers of HUGE savings of 50-95% from local businesses in your neighborhood, plus an instant \$5 to spend. FREE, with no obligation!

If you do decide to buy a deal, **Maricopa County Animal Care & Control** will get a donation equaling 8% on every deal you purchase.

The more irresistible deals you buy, the more money goes to help the homeless animals of Maricopa County. It's a win-win! You save, we earn.

Just sign up at www.dailydealusa.com and enter referral code **MCACC** It's that easy! Please help.

Why I Volunteer — Letters from our Volunteers

Hi, I'm Tina. I am 43 years old. I have a Bachelors Degree in Nutrition and work as a Registered Dietitian for Maricopa County Department of Public Health. I've been volunteering for Animal Care and Control going on three years now. I volunteer at the East Shelter doing Adoption Counseling once a week, and dog walking 2 to 3 times a month. I've always loved animals. Growing up we always had a family dog and a couple cats running around. I always wanted a dog of my own, so the day after I graduated high school (without permission) I drove to the Humane Society and picked out the sickest looking black puppy hiding in a corner. Needless to say, when I arrived home with my new bundle, my mom was furious and told me to take him back. I refused, she got over it, and for the next 4 years there were screams of "Casey's home, Casey's home" when we'd come home from college for a visit. Then of course I'd have to remind her - "Um, mom your daughter is home too".



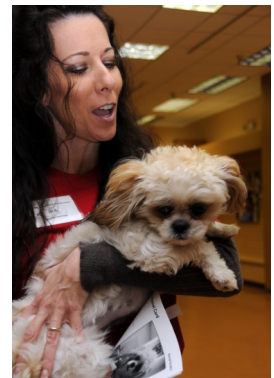
When I arrived in Arizona, I started to volunteer for a rescue group who took animals off the euthanasia list at the County shelters, and since then have adopted 3 more pets from the shelters. I decided to volunteer there because they seem to need the most help as there are just so many animals. I am motivated to volunteer because there are so, so many homeless animals and so, so many pet owners who choose to not spay and neuter their pets. While at the shelter I get to care for the animals, but also educate the public about responsible pet ownership.

My favorite things about volunteering at the shelter are: adoptions (of course!), when a family finds their lost pet (and I convince them to get it micro chipped before they leave), and connecting with the super stressed out, very afraid dogs when I coax them out of their kennel for a few minutes of play time outside. The skills I feel you need the most when at the shelter are good communication skills - you have to be a people person, you will be dealing with a lot of emotion - both from the guests and your own, so you need to know how to deal with all of that; you could call it counseling skills I guess.

My most rewarding volunteer moment is a personal one. While volunteering, for two weeks when I approached the cage of a female shepherd mix, she would put both her front paws up on the cage like she knew me. Her age was listed as 10 years old, she had a dislocated leg that was never fixed, so her bones used to gather in a huge knot, causing her to limp and walk crooked. I kept thinking "who is going to take a 10 year old dog with a messed up leg?" Even though we didn't need or want one more dog, my husband was willing to foster her until we could find her a great home. The foster part didn't work (I'm a foster parent failure!) and she's been a part of our family for 3 years now. She is just the sweetest, most loving, very amusing dog - and I am reminded every day that if I didn't volunteer at the shelter, I'd be missing out each and every day.

I would encourage others to volunteer at the shelter because it is a very rewarding experience. Not only do you get your 'kitty and doggie time', but you can make a difference in their lives just by giving them some love. Many animals come in from abusive or neglected situations, and when they know there are good people out there just waiting to give them a hug, or a walk, or a run around - the look in their eyes, and when their whole body wags - not just their tails...what they give back to you is priceless.

If you'd like to receive this newsletter electronically, please visit us at : pets.maricopa.gov



Have you ever wondered how you can help the homeless animals in Maricopa County? Volunteer at Maricopa County Animal Care & Control! This is a great way to help our furry friends. You can give back in a variety of ways: become an adoption counselor; take pictures for our website; socialize dogs and cats; and more! For additional information about MCACC or the volunteer program, please visit our website at pets.maricopa.gov.



One of the lucky cats to find a new home at MCACC this year.



Help us control the pet homeless problem. Get your pet spayed or neutered!

FREE RIDE HOME PROGRAM



DOES YOUR DOG HAVE A MARICOPA COUNTY LICENSE?



If your licensed dog gets lost,
we will pick him up and
bring him back home.



Register your dog today
pets.maricopa.gov
(602) 506-7387



2500 S. 27th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009



A big thank you goes out to Friends of Animal Care and Control and to everyone who attended the Hero Awards this past fall. 410 people showed up in support of the animals and more than \$190,000 was raised for SNAP, our FREE Spay/Neuter Voucher program. Another thank you to all who donated their time and items to the event.

Ways to Help the Animals

While MCACC was originally founded for the purpose of catching and killing stray animals to prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases, the population growth in Maricopa County has resulted in an ever increasing number of healthy and treatable dogs and cats looking to MCACC to find them homes. As a "special revenue fund" within Maricopa County, MCACC is responsible for generating funds for both its mandated and non-mandated services.

By becoming a donor of your dollars, your time, or by holding a donation drive, you can help ensure that MCACC can provide the care and services that will ultimately make it possible to reach the goal of eliminating the euthanasia of healthy and treatable pets by 2012.

Please send me information about the following

◇ How to Volunteer

◇ How to Donate

◇ Information on: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

____ I would like to receive your email newsletter!

Mail to: MCACC Community Relations

2500 S. 27th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009

facebook

Like us on facebook!

<http://twitter.com/MCACCaz1>

twitter

Follow us on twitter!

<http://twitter.com/MCACCaz1>

Spay Neuter to Stop Overpopulation

In Maricopa County, there are more than 50,000 reasons to spay and neuter your pet. Here are a few more:

- Reduce the chance your pet will spray or mark their territory.
- Keep your pet healthier.
- Reduce unwanted aggression.
- Reduce the chance your pet will become lost since he will not have the urge to roam.
- Ensure no more unwanted litters.



Each month, close to 5,000 dogs and cats, kittens and puppies are euthanized in shelters across Maricopa County. Most of these are healthy, adoptable animals that would make wonderful pets, if there were just enough homes. Many agencies offer spay and neuter help and solutions:

Maricopa County Animal Care and Control's "SNAP" - Spay Neuter Assistance Program (602) 506-PETS
www.maricopa.gov/Pets/SpayNeuter/Voucher.aspx

Spay Neuter Hotline— (602) 265-SPAY (7729) www.SpayNeuterHotline.org (for direct link to programs)

Arizona Humane Society has low-cost clinics and a mobile surgical unit offers low-cost surgeries for dogs and cats (602) 395-3864 www.azhumane.org/spw

Altered Tails— low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for dogs, cats and feral cats : (602) 943-SPAY
www.alteredtails.org

Tune in and catch our animals on TV and the radio!

- Every Saturday on Channel 12 at 9:35 a.m.
- Every other Thursday on Channel 12 at 1:35 p.m.
- Every last Tuesday of the month on KOOL radio 94.5
- You can also find them online at ktar.com

Visit One of Our Four Locations!

West Valley Care Center
2500 S. 27th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85009

East Valley Care Center
2630 W. 8th St.
Mesa, AZ 85201

PetSmart Charities Adoption Center
4380 N. Miller Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Under One Woof Adoption Center
9617 N. Metro Parkway #1116
Phoenix, AZ 85051

Phone: 602-506-PETS (7387)

hollisa@mail.maricopa.gov

pets.maricopa.gov



MCACC's new approach to delivering animal care and control services reflects the delicate balance that exists between animal welfare and animal control. We strive to be proactive and offer programs to prevent problems before they occur. It is our vision to reduce the dangers and nuisances caused by irresponsible pet ownership and to protect pets from abuse, neglect and homelessness.

Our mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of people and pets in Maricopa County.

MCACC offers a multitude of services to assist you and your pets:

- Adoption of cats and dogs
- Spay/Neuter programs
- Licensing
- Rabies vaccinations
- Lost and found shelter care
- Stray dog pick up
- Microchips
- Opportunities to volunteer and become foster care givers



Friends of Animal Care and Control

Our mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the special programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

P.O. Box 80739
Phoenix, AZ 85060

602-626-5073

Visit us at: www.azfaccs.org

Friends of Animal Care and Control Thrift Store

The FACCs thrift shop sells a wide variety of gently used items. Proceeds from the sales fund MCACC's valuable programs.



FACCs Thrift Shop

12625 N. Cave Creek Road (North of Thunderbird)
Phoenix, AZ 85022
602-923-6914

Store hours: Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm
Tuesday and Thursday open until 6:00 pm

Do you love animals? Do you have some items that you'd like to donate to charity? Please donate them to the FACCs thrift shop! The store is currently accepting the following gently used items:

- Clothing, purses, jewelry, shoes
- Dishes, glassware, utensils
- Furniture - indoor and outdoor
- Books
- Tools
- Children's clothing and toys (no furniture or car seats please)
- Household items (lamps, linens, bedspreads)
- Kitchen and office appliances
- Computers, printers, software
- Artwork
- Cell phones, PDA's

FACC's mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

